

family continued success and happiness in the chapters to come.

**HONORING BAYS MOUNTAIN PARK
& PLANETARIUM ON THEIR 50TH
ANNIVERSARY IN 2021**

HON. DIANA HARSHBARGER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 11, 2021

Mrs. HARSHBARGER. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Bays Mountain Park & Planetarium located in the City of Kingsport, in our First Congressional District in Tennessee, that is celebrating their golden anniversary of 50 years. Since 1971, Bays Mountain Park & Planetarium has been a continuing resource to the citizens of Kingsport.

Since the region's humble beginnings in the late 1700s, Bays Mountain provided for the families who settled there with land to farm and wood to build houses, a church, and a school. From the early 1800s to the early 1900s, Bays Mountain was the source of life for settlers and citizens. In 1914, one of Kingsport's founders, J. Fred Johnson, began buying up land on the mountain in order to create a lake. The next year, work began on a dam with much of that work being done by family members of those living on and around the mountain. The lake created by the dam served the city until 1944 when the city outgrew the capacity. Over the next two decades, the Mountain segued into a source of sustenance for its citizens to a resource to be recognized for its history and contribution to the livelihood of Kingsport. It was this transition that in 1965 led to the appointment of a committee to study ways to develop the mountain into a park by then Kingsport Mayor, Hugh Rule. After completion of the study, the City of Kingsport hired the National Audubon Society to help in the design of a park. The National Audubon Society's recommendations were to designate the area as a nature preserve to also allow hiking, naturalist-led activities, natural history studies, research, and leisure activities such as photography, painting wildlife observation and school day-use. They also recommended building a maintenance shed, a residence for a caretaker and an interpretive nature center. In short, the park was to be of great service to the public, including schools, while also serving to preserve the natural habitat it featured.

Development of these plans began in 1968 and, with assistance from Tennessee Eastman Company, as well as a bond referendum voted on by the citizens, the work culminated on May 24, 1971, with the opening of what our citizens know today as Bays Mountain Park & Planetarium.

Bays Mountain Park & Planetarium is the largest city owned park in the State of Tennessee with its 3,650-acre nature preserve, 40 miles of recreational trails, an adventure ropes course, and the original 44-acre lake.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in celebrating Bays Mountain Park & Planetarium as a jewel and part of the rich history of Tennessee's First Congressional District.

RECOGNIZING MONICA BABINE

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 11, 2021

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Monica Babine. On May 26, 2021, Monica was presented with the 2021 Digital Equity Champion Award for her outstanding work in the field of digital equity. For more than 30 years, she has worked on this issue that is so critical to Washington's 5th Congressional District.

Currently, Monica is the Senior Associate of the Program for Digital Initiatives at Washington State University's Division of Governmental Studies & Services. In this role, she works with business, government, economic, and community development organizations to increase broadband awareness, access, and use across the state of Washington.

Monica has a keen understanding that access to reliable, affordable broadband is basic infrastructure in our 21st Century digital economy. Her work to help close the digital divide and expand access to broadband in Eastern Washington's most rural communities cannot be overstated.

Monica has proven time and again to be a true leader in her field, creating the Broadband Action Team model and serving as a valuable resource for local leaders interested in broadband planning. As a result of her work, more people than ever are engaging to identify local broadband needs and make plans to address them.

Monica's focus on rural communities has made her an incredible partner, and I am grateful for her efforts as we continue working together to address this issue in Congress. Her tireless work to bring together members of our Eastern Washington community, including policymakers at every level, is so important to help close the digital divide once and for all.

Madam Speaker, for her commitment to expanding access to broadband, her exceptional leadership, and her ongoing work to improve the lives of people around her, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Monica Babine.

IN RECOGNITION OF FUSA
TAKAHASHI

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 11, 2021

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Speaker, it is with delight that I rise to honor a remarkable woman, Fusa Takahashi, for her outstanding advocacy for the Go for Broke Japanese American Soldiers of WWII Stamp.

In 2005, three Nisei women from California, Fusa Takahashi, Aiko King and Chiz Ohira, began a fifteen-year campaign for a commemorative stamp that would honor and share the story of the brave Nisei men and women who served our country during World War II, despite the forced relation and incarceration they and their loved ones faced. This important history was deeply personal for Fusa and her co-chairs, as each were survivors of the forced incarceration. Fusa's late husband,

Kazuo Takahashi, was an Army veteran of World War II. He bravely served as a Military Intelligence Service officer.

The women's grassroots letter writing campaign began as a small but mighty effort, encouraged by friends and community members. However, through their hard work, the campaign quickly received support from national organizations, state leaders and Congressmembers. Fusa and her friends persevered through setbacks and delays, never giving up. In November 2020, the U.S. Postal Service announced a Go for Broke Soldiers commemorative postage stamp will be issued. The stamp was officially issued on June 3rd, 2021.

Today, the forced relocation and incarceration of over 120,000 Japanese Americans through Executive Order 9066 is now considered one of the most atrocious violations of American civil rights in the 20th century. The Go for Broke Stamp is an important reminder of our history and a symbol of the tireless advocacy and efforts of Fusa, Aiko and Chiz, and all who supported them.

Madam Speaker, today we honor Fusa, Aiko and Chiz's outstanding efforts to honor the brave Nisei Soldiers of World War II. I thank Fusa and her partners for their dedication and successful efforts.

RECOGNIZING JIMMY UKEGAWA
AS MY CONSTITUENTS OF THE
MONTH

HON. MIKE LEVIN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 11, 2021

Mr. LEVIN of California. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Jimmy Ukegawa for my May Constituent of the Month. The COVID-19 pandemic has placed numerous burdens on constituents in my district, including a troubling rise in food insecurity. As a third-generation farmer who has been in business for more than three decades, Jimmy is no stranger to the stress of business ups and downs. Last March, after witnessing so many neighbors and friends struggling to make ends meet during the COVID-19 pandemic, Jimmy, his staff, and partners donated more than 500,000 pounds of food to those affected by food insecurity.

His effort began when the pandemic first hit, partnering with the Boys & Girls Club of Carlsbad and Carlsbad Senior Center to ensure children and those most vulnerable had something to eat. Since then, Jimmy's food donation efforts have grown to include Head Start programs, North County Lifeline, schools, and affordable living residences throughout Carlsbad, Oceanside, and Vista. Additionally, as the course of the pandemic played out, Jimmy wanted to make sure vulnerable and at-risk people in the district could still shop for nutritious fresh food, so he created an open-air market in his warehouse.

Over the course of this pandemic, I witnessed first-hand, residents lining up for food just to place a nourishing meal on the table for their families. I am incredibly grateful for constituents like Jimmy who stepped up to help the most vulnerable and in need families in CA-49. Our community is brighter and better because of Jimmy and his staffs generosity. I